

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES**2151 BERKELEY WAY
BERKELEY, CA 94704-1011**

February 21, 2003

RE: Patient advisory for additional vaccine restriction

It is the policy of the California Department of Health Services not to vaccinate anyone with a child under one year of age in their household. This is to avoid any possibility of accidental contact transmission of the vaccine to your child. During this voluntary vaccination program, we want to minimize any risk of adverse reactions.

The reasons for this policy are:

1. Children, especially those under one year of age, have a higher risk of serious adverse events from smallpox vaccine.
2. There is very close physical contact between child and adult during bottle feeding.
3. When the vaccine was given routinely to all children, it was not given to those under one year of age.

You may be vaccinated after your child reaches one year of age.



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